

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-9 and 11-21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6, 9, 11-12, 14, 16 and 20 are amended. Various amendments are made for clarity and are unrelated to issues of patentability. Claims of the present application may correspond to embodiments broader than the specific examples described in the present specification.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e) over U.S. Patent 6,924,779 to Lee et al. (hereafter the Lee patent). The rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the pending claims.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Office Action's indication that claims 2-3, 5-8 and 10-14 contain allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter indicated as being allowable is already provided within independent claims 1 and 9. Thus, independent claims 1 and 9 define patentable subject matter.

During a July 10 telephone conference with Examiner Minh D.A, applicants confirmed that the rejection is based on the Lee patent but the specific discussion of the reference is accidentally based on the Lee publication (2003/0193450) and not based on the applied Lee patent.

Independent claim 1 recites switching devices for shutting off a path between the voltage source and the second inductor in a state in which energy has been stored in the second inductor to derive an inverse voltage into the second inductor and allowing said inverse voltage to be applied to the panel, wherein the voltage source includes a first voltage source electrically

coupled between the panel and the ground voltage source and a second voltage source connected between the first voltage source and the ground voltage source.

The Lee patent does not teach or suggest at least these features of independent claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that because the Office Action has not addressed any specific section of the Lee patent, applicants can not make any specific comments regarding cited sections of the Lee patent other than to state the reference as a whole does not teach or suggest specifically claimed features.

The Lee patent does not teach or suggest the claimed first and second voltage source in combination with the claimed switching devices for shutting off a path between the voltage source and the second inductor in a state in which energy has been stored in the second inductor to derive an inverse voltage into the second inductor and allowing said inverse voltage to be applied to the panel. The Lee patent includes inductors L1 and L2. See FIG. 2. However, the Lee patent does not describe shutting off a path between the voltage source (including a first voltage source and a second voltage source) in a state in which energy has been stored in the second inductor to derive an inverse voltage.

At best, the Lee patent describes that current flowing to the inductor L1 may linearly increase because of current path 36 to thereby store energy in the inductor L1. See col. 6, lines 56-62; and FIG. 3C. However, with respect to FIG. 3D (or the other figures), there is no suggestion for shutting off a path between the voltage source and the inductor L1 (or L2) to derive an inverse voltage into the inductor and allowing the inverse voltage to be applied to a

panel, as recited in independent claim 1. For example, col. 7, lines 1-8 describes current path 37 formed in order of capacitor Cr1, switch Ma, inductor L1 and panel capacitor Cp. See also FIGs. 6C and 6D; and col. 8, line 32-col. 9, line 5.

For at least the reasons set forth above, the Lee patent does not teach or suggest all the features of independent claim 1. Thus, independent claim 1 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 9 recites shutting off a path between the voltage source and the second inductor in a state in which an energy has been stored in the second inductor using the switching devices to derive an inverse voltage into the second inductor and applying said inverse voltage to the panel, wherein supplying the sustain voltage includes forming a path between the first and second voltage sources and the panel connected in series using a first switch to thereby apply voltages from the first and second voltage sources to the panel. For at least similar reasons as set forth above, the Lee patent does not teach or suggest at least these features of independent claim 9. Thus, independent claim 9 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 15 recites that the first and second transistors are turned off during a first prescribed period of time such that a first electrically conductive path is provided through the first node, the fourth node and the third node such that energy stored in the second inductor is provided to the panel capacitance. For at least similar reasons as set forth above, the Lee patent does not teach or suggest at least these features of independent claim 15. That is, the Lee patent does not teach or suggest the claimed first electrically conductive path in combination

with the transistors turned off such that the first electrically conductive path is provided. Thus, independent claim 15 defines patentable subject matter.

For at least the reasons set forth above, each of independent claims 1, 9 and 15 defines patentable subject matter. Each of the dependent claims depends from one of the independent claims and therefore defines patentable subject matter at least for this reason. In addition, the dependent claims recite features that further and independently distinguish over the applied references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3-9 and 11-21 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

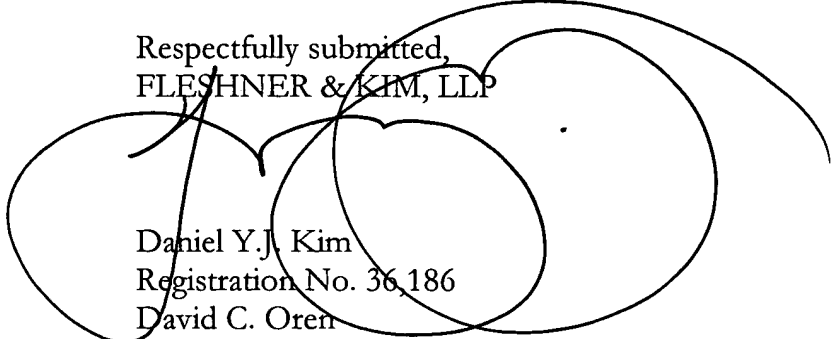
Serial No. **10/743,289**

Docket No. **YHK-0110**

Reply to Office Action dated April 26, 2006

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

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Date: July 20, 2006

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